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the articles of the late treaty, can lay claim to as much personal independence, as any subject of the realm, the Judges of the land not excepted.

On two points, it is true, H. had his fears as well as X. He disliked classification, or unequal distribution; and he dreaded indirect interference in the election of Presbyterian ministers. On these accounts, he offered to his people, to be *their stipendary alone*, if they chose to pay him his *accustomed support*. But, in the experience of ten years, no attempt at indirect interference has been made, even where elections have terminated contrary to the expressed wish of some of the first magistrates of the land.

Let X. then again review the grant of 1803, and he must see, that it interferes neither with the doctrine, the laws, the discipline, nor the rights of the people, in the election of their ministers.

If H. ever retaliates on X., it is with reluctance. He is perhaps as conscious of his inferiority to the intrepid Knox, as X. can paint him. Man is but relatively perfect, and even X. himself, though seen shining on various subjects, bright as the light of day, on the themes of civil and religious liberty, yet, as he is fond of the canine species, perhaps a good painter, in a night-piece, might not inaptly place him in the attitude of a faithful shepherd's dog, who, having performed his duty to his master in the day, sportively directs his attention to the queen of night in the evening; for surely the judicious reader will see, that X.'s attack on the Synod has had no stronger effect, than the dog Rover saying at the Moon.

H.

25th December, 1813.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

IN passing through the town of Bangor a few days ago, I observed an expensive, but very useful improvement, making in the street leading to the Church, by which a very steep hill will be considerably lowered, and the road brought nigher to a level. This is a species of improvement very generally prevalent, and which is very creditable to the present age. In former times our ancestors appeared to pique themselves on carrying roads over hills; whether from motives of economy, conceiving roads to be easier kept in repair when taken over rocks, of which most hills are composed, or from an error in mathematical calculation, that the road is shorter to be taken over the hill than round the one side of it, we cannot form a probable conjecture; but their predilection for making roads over hills, in preference to through vallies, is evident in all the old roads in this country.

On a former occasion I furnished you with a few observations on an important improvement which was making, and which still continues to be made on the quay of Bangor. When these projected improvements are finished, they will, in the opinion of many experienced persons, render that port the most convenient on the coast, for the mails between Scotland and Ireland, to land, and be despatched from. Such improvements I have great pleasure in contemplating; and I am willing to render to the projectors and executors of such works a just meed of praise; but there are other improvements, which I must confess come much nearer my heart, and command my more entire approbation.

To improve the face of the country by agriculture, to render its interior parts more easy of access, by shortening, multiplying, or levelling its roads, or to improve its commerce by deepening and rendering safer its harbours, must be admitted to be objects of great importance; but the culture of the human mind, and the melioration of the condition of the indigent part of the community, must, in the eye of the philosopher and the philanthropist, appear to be of much greater magnitude. While the one species of improvement is contemplated by the cold-blooded calculator, whose chief good is pounds, shillings, and pence, in proportion as it may tend to save him money, or enable him to make it; the contemplation of the other expands the heart of the friend of mankind, and raises in his benevolent breast sensations which are unfelt and unknown to the mere trader. Such must be the feelings of every true friend to humanity, who visits the Lancasterian school at Newtownards. To observe there upwards of 200 children, mostly from the lower ranks in society, obtaining knowledge to which they must have been utter strangers, had it not been for the establishment of such a school, and to remark the good order and regularity which so eminently prevail amongst them, raises the most delightful sensations in the mind of the visitor, and he is obliged to say with sincerity, here indeed is improvement.

During my visit to the school in Newtownards, I understood that one of the same kind was intended to be opened, the school house being ready, in Comber, and also one at Mount Stewart. Pursuing my ride from Newtownards to Bangor, I hoped to find that the bright example had been followed in that town, and that I should also find there a Lancasterian school; but judge of my dis-

appointment when I found there has as yet been no approach made towards such an establishment. On making the necessary inquiries, I was told that an excellent school had existed in Bangor about 25 years ago, where many poor children had received education; but that party spirit had extinguished it, and that at present such a thing was unknown.

Bangor, from its being a sea-port, and the seat of an extensive Cotton Manufacture, greatly requires that something should be done in that way. The children employed in the cotton mills must be interesting objects for a Sunday school; and the neighbourhood around it being populous, I have no doubt but a daily school of 200 children might be raised, composed of such as would by no other means obtain education. Or a plan might be adopted similar to that pursued in Malone, where an excellent school has been established by William Legg, Esq., on the following plan. All children whose parents are able to pay, are charged for reading, 3s. 3d. per quarter; for reading and writing, 4s. 4d.; and for reading, writing, and arithmetic, 5s. 5d. Mr. Legg himself pays at the same rate for 50 children who are unable to pay any thing. This is a most excellent plan in a neighbourhood where sufficient funds could not be obtained to support the school entirely as a free school; or where there would not be a sufficient number of poor children to form a school on the Lancasterian plan, as is the case in Malone. Though the benevolent example of this worthy gentleman is well worthy of imitation, yet where it would not be followed by an individual, still the plan might be acted upon, and the fund necessary for supporting the institution, by paying the teacher for the poor scholars, might be raised by

subscription. The conduct of Mr. Legg, and an amiable lady, Miss Wallace, is in this case highly exemplary. Mr. Legg has built the school house, gives a dwelling-house, and garden, and cow's grass free to the teacher; he pays an assistant, by which means the scholars can be taught arithmetic much farther than can be taught merely by the Lancasterian system. In addition to all this, he pays for 50 poor children, and supports a sewing school for females entirely free. This, with the marked attention of Miss Wallace, who spends at least two hours every day among the children, and distributes premiums among them at her own expence, has certainly rendered this one of the best schools to be found in the country. It is a real blessing to the people of that neighbourhood, both of the middle and lower ranks.

The rapid increase of the number of Lancasterian schools in Ireland, is a proof that the upper and middle ranks in society are now convinced that to give education to the poor is not to make them discontented with their lot in human life, but that it tends towards making them better men, and better citizens, and is a great means of improving the state of society in general. I therefore hope that the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Bangor will not be the last in contributing to this good work; that they will not lend their assistance towards degrading human nature even lower than ignorance itself would reduce it, by assimilating human creatures to the machinery with which they are employed; in making men, women, and children, merely the handles of the machines with which they work; and in confining their ideas within the bounds of the Cotton Mill, without a chance of extending to any thing beyond it.

The morals of such places are well known not to be rigid, and to require something to be done towards improvement. Some exertions should be made to teach them their moral and religious duties. The proprietors of Cotton Mills, therefore, should be foremost in such institutions as Sunday and Daily schools; there is not only a kind of responsibility on them for the conduct of their working people, but they would find their own interest promoted by improving the minds and the morals of those they employ.* The manufacture of cotton in this department differs from most others, in giving employment to children almost in infancy; which precludes any chance they might otherwise have of obtaining instruction; and thus they may be reared from childhood to manhood, without knowing the alphabet. From this circumstance it becomes the imperative duty of the proprietors of Cotton Mills to give every facility in their power to the instruction of the youth in their employment; and if

* An act of the 42d of Geo. 3d, among other salutary regulations, requiring Cotton Mills to be kept clean and airy, fixing the clothing of apprentices, and appointing Cotton Mills to be under the inspection of visitors, to be appointed at the midsummer sessions of the peace in each year, an act which does not appear to have been attended to in Ireland, enacts "that every apprentice shall be instructed in some part of every working day, for the first four years at least, of his or her apprenticeship, *in the usual hours of work*, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, by some discreet and proper person, to be provided and paid by the master or mistress of said apprentice, in some room or place, in such mill or factory, to be set apart for that purpose; and the time hereby directed to be allotted for such instruction, as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken on all occasions as part of the respective periods limited by this act, during which such apprentice shall be employed, or compelled to work."

they were even to go so far as to refuse employment to any who did not attend a Sunday school regularly, when they had it in their power to do so, they would be performing no more than their duty. Such a regulation has been attended with the best effects at the White-House school, where all the workers in the manufactories in that neighbourhood, who require instruction, must attend on Sundays on pain of losing their employment.

The conduct of the Messrs. Grimshaws has been highly praiseworthy in the establishment of the school at the White-House, and in the manner in which it is conducted. It is a shining example to all others under similar circumstances. They have a daily school attended by near 100 scholars, and a Sunday school attended by upwards of 200. This, in a country place, at a distance from any town, is a most important circumstance for the consideration of the inhabitants of Bangor and its neighbourhood. Knowing that your valuable miscellany is read by many persons there, I have taken the liberty of throwing out these few loose hints, in the hope that they may tend to rouse the benevolence of the inhabitants, and that they shall not be among the last in the county to shew themselves alive to a work of so much importance to the well-being of society.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours, &c.

D.

Belfast Jan. 1, 1814.

N.B. Since writing the above I have understood that a Sunday school is commenced, at which about 100 children attend. The proprietors of the Cotton Mill should immediately give notice to their workers that they will not give employment to any who do not attend the

school, or cause their children to attend that or some similar institution.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING, for a considerable time past, been an attentive observer of the Lancasterian institutions, I am not ignorant of the principal objections which have been made to those truly useful establishments. And, because some of them have the appearance of plausibility, it may not be amiss to say a few things on the subject.

It has been said, that Lancaster's system has too much of the military air about it. Why this should be objected, I know not, unless it is apprehended, that boys educated in this way may become passionately fond of the military life. Now, I really cannot see any thing in common between the military life and Lancaster's system, except the order which is observed. The children are taught to act together, and to do the same thing at the same time. But, though soldiers act in a similar manner, surely it is not to be supposed, that the slate exercise will naturally lead a boy to wish to handle a musket; or the orderly walk observed in school, to wish to join the march of an army. These points of similitude can never generate such a passion. Children recently admitted into the Lancasterian schools, are pleased and entertained with the novelty of the scheme; but, in a little time, that impression wears off, and no particular predilection appears to prevail, except what is dictated by a sense of the convenience and utility of the system. Mr. Lancaster has even guarded against the possibility of any unfavourable impression, by declining